

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05663 181553Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 /071 W
-----190519Z 063816 /16

R 181445Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1210
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5663

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, MASS, NI
SUBJECT: DANJUNA VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 106203, (B) LAGOS 440, (C) STATE 113793

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES ADVICE THAT U.S. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HAS AGREED TO INVITE HIS NIGERIAN COUNTERPART, LT. GENERAL DANJUNA, TO VISIT THE U.S. IN NOVEMBER. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE VISIT WILL PAY DIVIDENDS AND MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO U.S.-NIGERIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS.
2. WE HAVE A PROBLEM, HOWEVER, WITH DOD INJUNCTION AGAINST EXTENDING THE INVITATION BEFORE AUGUST. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH DANJUNA NOW. SENIOR FNG OFFICIALS MAINTAIN TIGHT SCHEDULES AND ARE SOMEWHAT TOUCHY ABOUT INVITATIONS WHICH REQUIRE CRASH PLANNING. MOREOVER, NOVEMBER TIMING IS COMPLICATED BY PROPOSED OBASANJO VISIT TO U.S. IN OCTOBER. WE OUGHT TO GIVE DANJUNA THE MAXIMUM LEAD TIME TO PLAN CAREFULLY FOR HIS OWN VISIT AND TO CLEAR IT THROUGH THE NIGERIAN BUREAUCRACY.
3. ADDITIONALLY, THERE MIGHT BE A TACTICAL BENEFIT FROM INFORMING DANJUNA ABOUT THE INVITATION NOW. CONTRARY
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TO FALOPE'S COMMENTS REPORTED REFTTEL C, WE HAVE BEEN LED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE FMG IS CONSIDERING REDUCING THE NUMBER OF NIGERIANS SENT TO THE U.S. FOR MILITARY TRAINING. WERE DANJUNA AWARE NOW THAT HE WOULD BE VISITING THE U.S. LATER THIS YEAR, HE MIGHT DELAY MAKING A FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER UNTIL HE HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AMERICAN TRAINING FACILITIES FOR HIMSELF. THE INVITATION AND VISIT ALSO HAVE POTENTIAL TO

STIMULATE RENEWED FMG INTEREST IN PURCHASING U.S. MILITARY
EQUIPMENT

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH
DANJUNA NOW TO EXTEND AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO VISIT THE U.S.
IN NOVEMBER AND ASK IF THE TIMING IS CONVENIENT.
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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